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Title: Need to include Dhangar community in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Maharashtra.

SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO DUDHGAONKAR (PARBHANI): I would like to raise the issue for the implementation of long standing demands of Dhangar community. Dhangar community is the most backward community of Maharashtra having large number of People. They have been vehemently agitating for bestowing Scheduled Tribe status on them since many years.

As a matter of fact that Dhangar as well as Dhangad is one and the same. Dhangar community is included in the List of Scheduled Tribes in India in Maharashtra at Sr. no 36 as Oraon, Dhangad. The only community present in the state is Dhangar that can be spelt as Dhangad and pronounced as Dhangar. There is no such community called Dhangad in Maharashtra. The ethological and anthropological information of Dhangad and Dhangar given in the reports is same which is synonymous of Shepherds. Both the words mean the same community, i.e. Shepherds of Maharashtra. The State Government of Maharashtra had already recommended to the Government of India to include the Dhangar community in the list of Scheduled Tribes. Even in 1989, the CAG report recommended the inclusion of Dhangar community in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

However, due to some technical or other reasons ST status could not be conferred on Dhanagar community so far. People belonging to this community have been agitating and demanding justice peacefully since many years. Their demands are genuine and considerable. The Maharashtra Government have requested to the Central Government to consider the matter and sought reasons for the delay.

I urge the Central Government for the inclusion of Dhangar community in the list of Scheduled Tribes and to extend all benefits to them, as has been done in the case of other Scheduled Tribes at the earliest.